

REMARKS

By the present amendment, claims 1-9 have been canceled and claims 10-16 have been added. Newly added independent claim 10 corresponds to previous claim 9, but rewritten in independent form. Newly added dependent claims 11-16 correspond to previous dependent claims 2-6 and 8. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

In the most recent Office Action, claims 1-7 and 9 again were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the patent to Kitamura et al in view of the patents to Igarashi et al or Sato et al. In addition, claim 8 again was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the same patents to Kitamura et al, Igarashi et al and Sato et al in view of the patent to Nakatani et al. Reconsideration of these rejection in view of the above claim amendments and the following comments are respectfully requested.

In the ink jet recording sheet as claimed in newly added independent claim 10, the specific silica pigment-cationic resin composite fine particles as defined and contained in the ink receiving layer exhibit excellent dispersing property and dispersion stability and enable the subject ink receiving layer to exhibit high ink absorption properties and a high gloss. In addition, the silica pigment-cationic resin composite fine particles in the ink

receiving layer enable the recorded ink images on the ink receiving layer to exhibit a high water resistance, excellent resistance to wet blotting and excellent clarity comparable to that of silver salt photographic images. In particular, the wet blotting resistance of the recorded images is significant and thus the ink jet recording sheet of the present invention is very useful in practice.

It is submitted that the specific effect of the silica pigment-cationic resin composite fine particles on the enhancement of the resistance of the recorded ink images to wet blotting is not taught or suggested by the cited references.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) and allowance of newly added claims 10-16 over the cited patents are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the subject application is now in condition for allowance and early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, the undersigned hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to Deposit

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Account No. 01-2340, along with any other additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper.

Respectfully submitted,

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